And does he send to me ? Three ? humph !—
It shows but little love or judgment in him.
Must I be his last refuge ? His friends, like physicians,
Thrive, give him over[7]; Must I take the cure upon me?

But I can only point out metrical dilapidations which I profess my inability to repair. STEEVENS. [7]

—'His friends, like physicians,
THRIVE, give him over;] Sir Thomas Hanmer reads, *try'd,* plausibly enough. Instead of *three* proposed by Mr. Pope, I .should read *thrice.* But perhaps the old reading is the true.

JOHNSON.,

Perhaps we should read—shritfd. They " give him over ishriv'd ;" that is [6] prepared for immediate death by shrift.'

TYRWHITT.

Perhaps the following passage in Webster's Dutch ess of Malfy, is the best comment after all:

«----------Physicians thus
" *With their hands jull of money,* use
to *give o'er* " Their patients."

The passage will then mean:—" His friends, like physicians, thrive by his bounty and fees, and either *relinquish and forsake him,* or give his case up as desperate." *To give over* in The Taming of the Shrew, has no reference to the irremediable condition of a patient, but simply means to *leave, to forsake,* to *quit .*-[e] And therefore let me be thus bold with you " *To givey-ou over* at this first encounter, " Unless you will accompany me thither."

STEEVENS. The editor of the second folio, the first and principal comipter of these plays, for *Thrive,* substituted *Thrived,* on which the conjectures of Sir Thomas Hanmer and Mr. Tyrwhitt were founded.

The passage quoted by Mr. Steevens from The Dutch ess of Malfy, is a strong confirmation of the old reading; for Webster appears both in that and in another piece of his (The White Devil) to have frequently imitated Shakspeare* Thus in The Dutch ess of Malfy, we find :

"------Use me well, you were best;
[tc] What I have done, I have done; 1*11 confess nothing." Apparently from Othello:
" Demand me nothing; what you know, you know ; "
From this time forth I never will speak word."
Again, the Cardinal, speaking to his mistress Julia, who had importuned him to disclose the cause of his melancholy., says,: